



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

- WHEREAS: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a native son of Georgia, called upon all men and women to adhere to our nation's central founding premise that we are all created equal; and
- WHEREAS: Dr. King devoted his life to principles of peaceful social change and his legacy continues to inspire people of all nations with a call to action; and
- WHEREAS: Dr. King studied at Morehouse College, ministered at Ebenezer Baptist Church, founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Atlanta, and embedded within our local communities principles of fellowship and impartiality that would lay the foundation for a broader social movement. His distinguished place in our shared history and the ideals for which he advocated are enshrined in our daily lives and reinforce our continued endeavor to become a more perfect union; and
- WHEREAS: In addition to his most notable roles as a renowned American, a pivotal leader in the Civil Rights movement, a teacher, a preacher, and a commanding voice for those far too long mistreated by society, Dr. King was a devoted husband and father; and
- WHEREAS: Through their marriage of almost 15 years, Coretta Scott King played an integral role as she worked alongside her husband to forge a common ground on which people from all walks of life could join together to address important community issues. Working in partnership with individuals of all ages, races, and backgrounds, Dr. King and Mrs. King encouraged Americans to come together to strengthen communities, alleviate poverty, and acknowledge the dignity of all human beings; and
- WHEREAS: Dr. King believed that each individual possesses the power of self-fulfillment regardless of circumstances – wealthy or poor, black or white, man or woman. This dream that he so eloquently presented to the world, not just in word but also in deed, withstands time and still echoes in our hearts; and
- WHEREAS: Dr. King's enduring dream and pursuit of justice, faithfully promoted by Mrs. King through her work as an author and community leader, continues to inspire people everywhere to give themselves in service to others and to help improve the world around them; and
- WHEREAS: In August 2017, a statue of Dr. King was unveiled on the northeast quadrant of the Georgia State Capitol Grounds. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of the King family, Rep. Calvin Smyre, the Capitol Arts Standards Commission, sculptor Marty Dawe, the Coca-Cola Company, and the Atlanta and Georgia Apartment Associations, Dr. King's statue today stands next to the street bearing his name, overlooking the neighborhood where he was born and lived the first 12 years of his life, as well as the church where Dr. King was baptized and served as pastor, just as his father did. This statue reminds us of Dr. King's words to "live out the true meaning of our nation's creed"; and
- WHEREAS: This year marks Georgia's 33rd annual celebration of his life and the 32nd year of the Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday, when multitudes of men and women from all walks of life gather to reflect upon his memory. In remembrance of his life, citizens are encouraged to participate in service projects in communities across the state on Monday, January 15, 2018; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim January 15, 2018, as MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY in Georgia and encourage our citizens to participate in service projects that will make a difference in our communities and in the lives of our neighbors.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 12th day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF